



City of Cincinnati

August 31, 2007

Focused Neighborhood Services Program Successful in Avondale

Today, the City of Cincinnati and the community of Avondale announced the results of the 90-day focused strategy addressing neighborhood quality of life issues that was conducted from Tuesday, May 15 through Wednesday, August 15, 2007. This model has been successfully used on Vine Street in Over-the-Rhine and in Price Hill, and was designed to jumpstart longer-term neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment and to build on the community initiatives already in place (i.e. CeaseFire, United Way's Place Matters, investment by the Uptown Consortium).

Through focused, integrated and concentrated city service delivery and community redevelopment efforts, partners (City departments, the residents, and the community organizations) sought to improve the quality of life in the areas of Avondale bordered by Rockdale Avenue to the north, Ridgeway Avenue to the south, Burnet Avenue to the west and I-71 and Victory Parkway to the east. The targeted area was identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls for Police service and drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds.

"When you look at both the efforts we set out to measure, and then look at the immeasurable spirit of the community coming together to make a difference in Avondale," said City Manager Milton Dohoney, "this program is a great success."

The 90-day, collaborative effort focused on developing neighborhood assets. Integrated services delivery included concentrated building code enforcement; identifying and 'cooling down' crime hot spots; cleaning up streets, sidewalks, vacant lots; beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public rights-of-way; and engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood, after the first 90 days.

Measures of success were achieving decreases in the baseline "blight index" and crime statistics, full inspection of properties for building infractions, the ability to serve as an overall catalyst for community re-building.

City services team includes Police, Fire, Board of Health, Community Development & Planning, Buildings & Inspections, and Public Services.

Community partners include the Avondale Community Council, Avondale Business Association, Avondale Redevelopment Corporation, United Way Place Matters Initiative, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Community Partnering Center, Uptown Consortium, People Working Cooperatively, The Home Ownership Center, Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Hamilton County Department of Community Development, Hamilton County Adult Probation, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction County, Victory Neighborhood Services, Boys Scouts of America, Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, Crossroads, and World Changers.

Highlights of the Avondale Focused Neighborhood Services program:

- Decrease in baseline “blight index”: 11.7% decrease in overall blight conditions in the focus area.
- **Community Safety:**
 - Police Statistics: 613 Total Arrests; Doubled arrests for Part 1 crimes; 44% decrease in robberies; 22% decrease in thefts.
 - Landlord/ Tenant and Block Watch Training for interested residents.
 - “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)” surveys at seven locations to develop a community grant program in support of environmental improvements to increase safety for private property owners.
 - Thirty-five separate CeaseFire events in Avondale within the target area.
 - Uptown Consortium directed 75% of all funds for Uptown Consortium-funded police details to the focus area at an approximate cost of \$20,000.
- **Building Code Enforcement and Repair**
 - Inspections were initiated on a total of 619 Buildings.
 - 332 orders were issued to correct 1,518 code violations.
 - 4 buildings were demolished in Avondale at a cost of \$99,000. 6 buildings were barricaded during the period at a cost of \$2,583.
 - Vacant building inventory conducted and case planning for 58 vacated buildings.
 - A Zoning Code sign sweep was conducted along the Business districts to identify illegal signage and code violations. 43 Properties were inspected resulting in 17 Zoning violation orders being issued.
 - Provided contractual service providers to 90-day efforts through People Working Cooperatively (PWC) and the Home Ownership Center (HOC).
 - HOC has offered counseling (credit, homeownership, home repair, etc) among their services and addressed 41 residents seeking assistance.
 - PWC has performed 249 services in Avondale with 85 services completed resulting in \$63,414 of resources; 87 on-going projects with \$49,753 in costs projected.
 - Held two Avondale Town Meetings/Informational sessions to address Code Violations. Provided Homeowner and Renter Support Service to the residents of Avondale.

Neighborhood Clean Up Efforts

- 159 requests for service for Public Services Department.
- Removed graffiti from 30 locations and 110 lane miles of streets were swept. Hand crews removed 61.4 cubic yards of litter.
- Removed 12 illegally posted signs.
- 178 complaints of litter/tall grass investigated.
- 57 civil citations for violations to the City’s weed and litter ordinances. 39 have been corrected.
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful (KCB) partnered with youth from Avondale’s baseball teams and the Community Council to finish removing about 100 tires and a dumpster full of debris from an illegal dumpsite in Avondale.
- Cleanup efforts at Blair Court with Cross Roads and KCB, the Avondale Community Council and Avondale Youth Council resulted in approximately 35,000 lbs. of debris and almost 300 tires removed.
- Uptown Consortium awarded a grant of \$35,000 for an Avondale Clean & Safe Initiative via a partnership between Avondale Community Council, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and Community Police Partnering Center. The project was an anti-litter campaign and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

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- (CPTED) Project. To date, 10 youth have been trained in CPTED; approximately 20 have been hired as community engineers, marketing team members, or general store workers and over 100 volunteers recruited for the upcoming Fall Clean-up.

- **Ongoing Efforts**

- Community Problem Oriented Policing Team and the Community Partnering Center has partnered with Avondale over the past year to establish CeaseFire Cincinnati, a neighborhood-based initiative, where citizens, police, and supporting agencies work together to create a safer community.
- United Way and five other community funders – Greater Cincinnati Foundation, LISC, NeighborWorks America, SC Ministry Foundation and PNC Bank – have formed a funders' collaborative to support comprehensive community initiatives in three neighborhoods in the Greater Cincinnati area including Avondale.
- Xavier University's Community Building Institute, in its facilitation of implementing the neighborhood plan, will ensure integrated evidence-based human service and proven community development strategies within Avondale are in place to improve both community conditions and quality of life for individuals and families through the following strategies
- Uptown consortium awarded \$35,000 to the Urban League for job readiness training specific to Uptown (Avondale) residents with a focus on job placement with companies located in Uptown.
- **Upcoming Events:**

Avondale Home Repair Fair	September 11 @ 6 p.m. (Pride Center)
Follow up mtgs. Partners/Stakeholders	September 27 @ 2 p.m. (Pride Center)
Uptown Volunteer Blitz	September 29 @ 8 a.m. (Pride Center)
- Additionally, The Greater Cincinnati Urban League and the Community Police Partnering Center will sponsor a *Community-based Approach to the Citizens Police Academy: The Community and Police Come Together*. The purpose of the seminar series is to offer to the African American community an abbreviated and personalized version of the Citizens Policy Academy in a "community-friendly" environment, while building enhanced relationships, providing education and information on police resources. Topics include an overview of CPD, Use of Force and Deaths in Custody, how to access CPD, CPOP, CIRV, Focused City Services and concludes with a panel discussion on ways for the community and police to continue working together.
 Dates: September 11, 18 & 25, 2007
 Time: 5:30 PM light refreshments and networking. 6:00-8:00 PM Program
 Location: Greater Cincinnati Urban League, 3858 Reading Road, Community Room

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